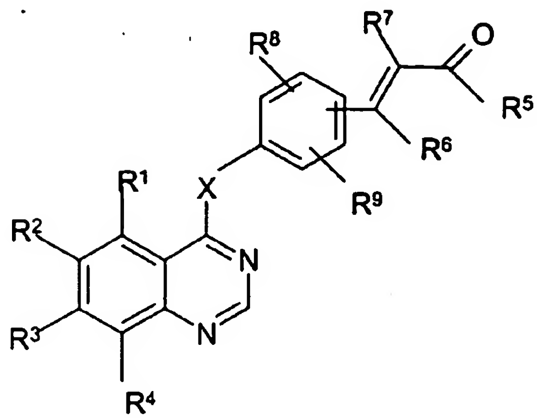
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a salt, ester, or amide thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$ or NR^{10} where R^{10} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^5 is a group OR^{11}, $NR^{12}R^{13}$ or SR^{11} where R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups, and R^{12} and R^{13} may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms,

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen or hydrocarbyl;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated, [[(]]linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom, [[)]] or unsaturated, [[(]]linked via a ring carbon atom, [[)]], and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino,

C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from halogeno, cyano, nitro, C_{1-3}alkylsulphanyl, -N(OH)R^{14}, [[(]]wherein R^{14} is hydrogen, or C_{1-3}alkyl, [[)]], or $R^{16}X^1$- wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, -CH_2-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{17}C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{18}-, -SO_2NR^{19}-, -$NR^{20}SO_2$- or -NR^{21}-, [[(]]wherein R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]], and R^{16} is hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy.

2. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one group R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 is a group $R^{16}X^1$- and R^{16} is hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl, or combinations thereof; or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group of from 4 to 20 ring atoms, and where the optional substituents comprise at least one functional group selected from nitro, cyano, halo, oxo, $=CR^{78}R^{79}$, $C(O)_xR^{77}$, OR^{77}, $S(O)_yR^{77}$, $NR^{78}R^{79}$, $C(O)NR^{78}R^{79}$, $OC(O)NR^{78}R^{79}$, $=NOR^{77}$, $-NR^{77}C(O)_xR^{78}$, $-NR^{77}CONR^{78}R^{79}$, $-N=CR^{78}R^{79}$, $S(O)_yNR^{78}R^{79}$ or $-NR^{77}S(O)_yR^{78}$ where R^{77}, R^{78} and R^{79} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy, or R^{78} and R^{79} together form an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms, where x is an integer of 1 or 2, y is 0 or an integer of 1-3.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 where hydrocarbyl, heterocyclyl or alkoxy groups R^{77}, R^{78} and R^{79} as well as rings formed by R^{78} and R^{79} are optionally substituted by halo, perhaloalkyl, mercapto, alkylthio, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy, heteroaryl,

heteroaryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, alkoxyalkoxy, aryloxy ~~(where the aryl group may be substituted by halo, nitro, or hydroxy)~~, cyano, nitro, amino, mono- or di-alkyl amino, oximino or $S(O)_yR^{90}$, where the aryl group may be substituted by halo, nitro, or hydroxy and where y is as defined in claim 2 and R^{90} is a alkyl.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein at least one group R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 is a group $R^{16}X^1$- and R^{16} is hydrogen or an alkyl group, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from functional groups as defined in claim 2, or alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl, any of which may be substituted with a functional group as defined in claim 2 , and where any aryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl groups may also be optionally substituted with hydrocarbyl .

5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is a group $R^{16}X^1$- where X^1 is as defined in claim 1 and R^{16} is selected from one of the following twenty-two groups:

1) hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

2) $-R^aX^2C(O)R^{22}$; [[(]]wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{23}$-, [[(]]in which R^{23} represents hydrogen[[,]] or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [[)]] and R^{22} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-OR^{26}$, [[(]]wherein R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen[[,]] or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group[[))]];

3) $-R^bX^3R^{27}$; [[(]]wherein X^3 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{28}C(O)$-, $-NR^{28}C(O)O$-, $-C(O)NR^{29}$-, $-C(O)ONR^{29}$- $-SO_2NR^{30}$-, $-NR^{31}SO_2$- or $-NR^{32}$-, [[(]]wherein R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen[[,]] or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [[)]] and R^{27} represents hydrogen, hydrocarbyl or a saturated heterocyclic group, wherein the hydrocarbyl or heterocyclic groups may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups and the heterocyclic groups may additionally be substituted by a hydrocarbyl group[[)]];

4) $-R^cX^4R^{c'}X^5R^{35}$; [[(]]wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{36}C(O)$-, $-NR^{36}C(O)O$-, $-C(O)NR^{37}$-,

$-C(O)ONR^{37}$- $-SO_2NR^{38}$-, $-NR^{39}SO_2$- or $-NR^{40}$-, [[(]]wherein R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38}, R^{39} and R^{40} each independently represents hydrogen or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group, [[)]] and R^{35} represents hydrogen[[,]] or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group[[)]];

5) R^{41}; wherein R^{41} is a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or saturated heterocyclic ring [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen[[)]], which cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl or heterocyclyl group which hydrocarbyl or heterocyclyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups;

6) $-R^dR^{41}$; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

7) - R^eR^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

8) $-R^f R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

9) R^{42}; wherein R^{42} represents an aryl group or an aromatic heterocyclic group [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen[[)]] with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally ~~susbsituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups;

10) $-R^gR^{42}$ (wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore);

11) $-R^hR^{42}$ (wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore);

12) $-R^i R^{42}$ (wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore);

13) $-R^j X^6R^{42}$ (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{47}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{48}$-, $-C(O)ONR^{48}$-,$-SO_2NR^{49}$-, $-NR^{50}SO_2$- or $-NR^{51}$- (wherein R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50} and R^{51} each independently represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore);

14) $-R^kX^7R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^7 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{52}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{53}$-, $C(O)ONR^{53}$-, $-SO_2NR^{54}$-, $-NR^{55}SO_2$- or $-NR^{56}$-, [[(]]wherein R^{52}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55} and R^{56} each independently represents hydrogen[[,]] or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

15) $-R^mX^8R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^8 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{57}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{58}$-, $-C(O)ONR^{58}$-, $-SO_2NR^{59}$-, $-NR^{60}SO_2$- or $-NR^{61}$-, [[(]]wherein R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60} and R^{61} each independently represents hydrogen, hydrogen, or alkyl

optionally substituted with a functional group, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

16) $-R^{n}X^{9}R^{n'}R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^{9} represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{62}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{63}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{63}-$, $-SO_2NR^{64}-$, $-NR^{65}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{66}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64}, R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen~~, hydrogen,~~ or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

17) $-R^{p}X^{9}-R^{p'}R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^{9} and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

18) C_{2-5}alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

19) C_{2-5}alkynyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

20) $-R^{t}X^{9}R^{t'}R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^{9} and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

21) $-R^{u}X^{9}R^{u'}R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^{9} and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]]; and

22) $-R^{v}R^{67}(R^{v'})_{q}(X^{9})_{r}R^{68}$; [[(]]wherein X^{9} is as defined hereinbefore, q is 0 or 1, r is 0 or 1, and R^{67} is a C_{1-3}alkylene group or a cyclic group selected from divalent cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C_{1-3}alkylene group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally ~~subsituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups; and R^{68} is hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or a cyclic group selected from cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C_{1-3}alkylene group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups[[)]];

and wherein R^{a}, R^{b}, R^{c}, $R^{c'}$, R^{d}, R^{g}, R^{j}, R^{n}, $R^{n'}$ R^{p}, $R^{p'}$, $R^{t'}$, $R^{u'}$, R^{v} and $R^{v'}$ are independently selected from C_{1-8}alkylene groups optionally ~~substitued~~ substituted by one or more functional groups,

R^e R^h, R^k and R^t are independently selected from $C_{2\text{-}8}$alkenylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups, and

R^f, R^i, R^m and R^u are independently selected from by $C_{2\text{-}8}$alkynylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{16} is selected from one of the following twenty-two groups:

1) hydrogen or $C_{1\text{-}5}$alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, oxiranyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, amino, $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;

2) $-R^aX^2C(O)R^{22}$; [[(]]wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{23}-$, [[(]]in which R^{23} represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkyl or $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkoxy$C_{2\text{-}3}$alkyl) and R^{22} represents $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkyl, $-NR^{24}R^{25}$ or $-OR^{26}$, [[(]]wherein R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}5}$alkyl, hydroxy$C_{1\text{-}5}$alkyl or $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkoxy$C_{2\text{-}3}$alkyl[[())]];

3) $-R^bX^3R^{27}$; [[(]]wherein X^3 represents -O-, C(O) -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{28}C(O)-$, $-NR^{28}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{29}-$, $C(O)ONR^{29}-$, $-SO_2NR^{30}-$, $-NR^{31}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{32}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkyl, hydroxy $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl or $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkoxy$C_{2\text{-}3}$alkyl, [[)]] and R^{27} represents hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl, $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkenyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl group may bear 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyclopropyl, amino, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylamino, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkanoyldi-$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylamino, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylthio, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, $C_{1\text{-}4}$cyanoalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$hydroxyalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxy, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxy$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylsulphonyl$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxycarbonyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$aminoalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylamino, di($C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl)amino, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylamino$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, di($C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl)amino$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkylamino$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxy, di($C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl)amino$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkoxy and a group $-(-O-)_f(R^{b'})_gD$, [[(]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and D is a cyclic group selected from $C_{3\text{-}6}$cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo or $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl[[())]];

4) $-R^cX^4R^{c'}X^5R^{35}$; [[(]]wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, C(O), -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{36}C(O)-$, $-NR^{36}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{37}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{37}-$, $-SO_2NR^{38}-$, $-NR^{39}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{40}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38}, R^{39} and R^{40} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{35} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl[[)]];

5) R^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is a 4-6-membered cycloalkyl or saturated heterocyclic ring, [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [[)]] with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl, cyanoC_{1-4}alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carboxamido, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkoxy nitro, amino, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, $-C(O)NR^{43}R^{44}$, $-NR^{45}C(O)R^{46}$, [[(]]wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45} and R^{46}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and a group $-(-O-)_f(C_{1-4}alkyl)_g$ringD, [[(]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4}alkyl[[))]];

6) $-R^dR^{41}$; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

7) - R^eR^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

8) $-R^fR^{41}$; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

9) R^{42}; wherein R^{42} represents a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [[)]] with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which ; phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, oxo, cyanoC_{1-4}alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, carboxy, carboxamido,

trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-C(O)NR^{69}R^{70}$, $-NR^{71}C(O)R^{72}$, [[(]]wherein R^{69}, R^{70}, R^{71} and R^{72}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and a group $-(-O-)_f(C_{1-4}alkyl)_g$ringD, [[(]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4}alkyl[[)]];

10) $-R^gR^{42}$; [[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

11) $-R^hR^{42}$; [[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

12) $-R^i R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

13) $-R^j X^6R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^6 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{47}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{48}-$, $C(O)ONR^{48}-$, $-SO_2NR^{49}-$, $-NR^{50}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{51}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50} and R^{51} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

14) $-R^kX^7R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^7 represents -O-, C(O), -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{73}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{74}-$, $C(O)ONR^{74}-$, $-SO_2NR^{75}-$, $-NR^{76}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{77}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{73}, R^{74}, R^{75}, R^{76} and R^{77} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

15) $-R^mX^8R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^8 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{57}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{58}-$, $-SO_2NR^{59}-$, $-NR^{60}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{61}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60} and R^{61} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

16) $-R^n X^9R^{n'}R^{42}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{62}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{63}-$, $C(O)ONR^{63}-$, $-SO_2NR^{64}-$, $-NR^{65}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{66}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64}, R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

17) $-R^p X^9-R^{p'}lR^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

18) C_{2-5}alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl and N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl;

19) C_{2-5}alkynyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl and N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl;

20) -$R^{t}X^{9}R^{t'}R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

21) -$R^{u}X^{9}R^{u'}R^{41}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]]; and

22) - $R^{v}R^{67}(R^{v'})_q(X^9)_rR^{68}$; [[(]]wherein X^9 is as defined hereinbefore, q is 0 or 1, r is 0 or 1, and R^{67} is a C_{1-3}alkylene group or a cyclic group selected from cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentylene, cyclohexylene or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkylene group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C_{1-4}cyanoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkoxy and a group -(-O-)$_f$(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_g$ringD, [[(]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4}alkyl[[)]]; and R^{68} is hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or a cyclic group selected from cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, cyano, C_{1-4}cyanoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkoxy and a group -(-O-)$_f$(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_g$ringD, [[(]]wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic

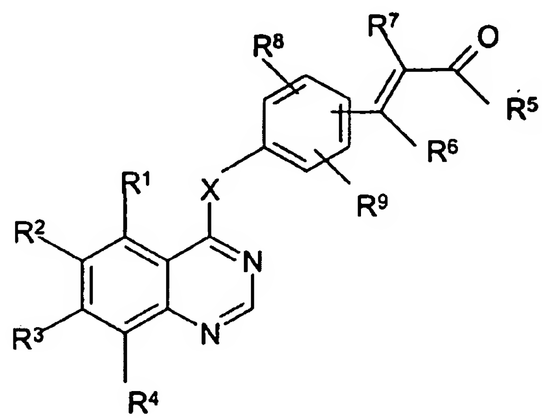
group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4}alkyl[[)]];

and wherein R^a, R^b, $R^{b'}$, R^c, $R^{c'}$, R^d, R^g, R^j, R^n, $R^{n'}$ R^p, $R^{p'}$, $R^{t'}$, $R^{u'}$, R^v and $R^{v'}$ are independently selected from C_{1-8}alkylene groups optionally ~~substitued~~ <u>substituted</u> by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino,

R^e R^h, R^k and R^t are independently selected from C_{2-8}alkenylene groups optionally substituted by by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino,and R^t may additionally be a bond; and

R^f, R^i, R^m and R^u are independently selected from by C_{2-8}alkynylene groups optionally susbstituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino.

7. (currently amended) A compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

or a salt, ester or amide thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, NH or NR^{10} where R^{10} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^5 is a group OR^{11}, $NR^{12}R^{13}$ or SR^{11} where R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups, and R^{12} and R^{13} may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms,

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic

group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated, [[(]]linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom, [[)]] or unsaturated, [[(]]linked via a ring carbon atom[[)]], and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl,
N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and
R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, -$NR^{14}R^{15}$, [[(]]wherein R^{14} and R^{15}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl[[)]], or -X^1R^{16}, [[(]]wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, -CH_2-, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{17}CO-, -CONR^{18}-, -SO_2NR^{19}-, -$NR^{20}SO_2$- or -NR^{21}-, [[(]]wherein R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl[[)]], R^{16} is selected from one of the following seventeen groups:
1') hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,
2') C_{1-5}alkylX^2COR^{22}; [[(]]wherein X^2 represents -O- or -NR^{23}-, [[(]]in which R^{23} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{22} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, -$NR^{24}R^{25}$ or -OR^{26} , [[(]]wherein R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl[)]];
3') C_{1-5}alkylX^3R^{27}; [[(]]wherein X^3 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -OCO-, -NR^{28}CO-, -CONR^{29}-, -SO_2NR^{30}-, -$NR^{31}SO_2$- or -NR^{32}-, [[(]]wherein R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{27} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated

heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl and C_{1-4}alkoxy);

4') C_{1-5}alkylX^4C_{1-5}alkylX^5R^{35}; [[(]]wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{36}CO-, -CONR^{37}-, -SO_2NR^{38}-, -$NR^{39}SO_2$- or -NR^{40}-, [[(]]wherein R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38}, R^{39} and R^{40} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{35} represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl[[)]];

5') R^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group, [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [[)]] with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl[[)]];

6') C_{1-5}alkylR^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

7') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

8') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{41}; [[(]]wherein R^{41} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

9') R^{42}; [[(]]wherein R^{42} represents a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group, [[(]]linked via carbon or nitrogen, [[)]] with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, -CON$R^{43}R^{44}$ and -NR^{45}COR^{46}, [[(]]wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45} and R^{46}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl[[))]];

10') C_{1-5}alkylR^{42}; [[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

11') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{42}; [[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

12') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{42};[[(]]wherein R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

13') C_{1-5}alkylX^6R^{42}; [[(]]wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{47}CO-, -CONR^{48}-, -SO_2NR^{49}-, -$NR^{50}SO_2$- or -NR^{51}-, [[(]]wherein R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50} and R^{51} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

14') C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{42}; [[(]]wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{52}CO-$, $-CONR^{53}-$, $-SO_2NR^{54}-$, $-NR^{55}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{56}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{52}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55} and R^{56} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

15') C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{42}; [[(]]wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{57}CO-$, $-CONR^{58}-$, $-SO_2NR^{59}-$, $-NR^{60}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{61}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60} and R^{61} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

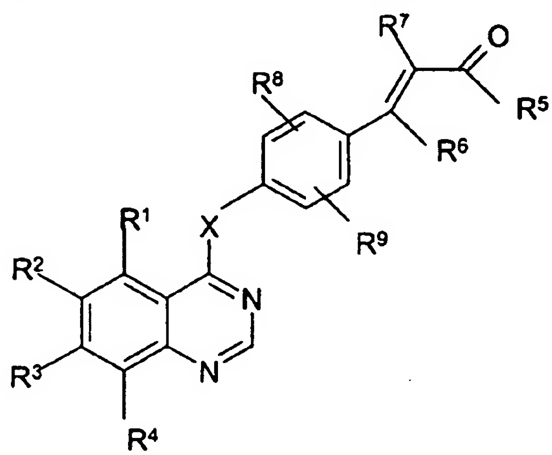
16') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{42}; [[(]]wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{62}CO-$, $-CONR^{63}-$, $-SO_2NR^{64}-$, $-NR^{65}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{66}-$, [[(]]wherein R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64}, R^{65} and R^{66} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl, [[)]] and R^{42} is as defined hereinbefore[[)]]; and

17') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{41}; [[(]]wherein X^9 and R^{41} are as defined hereinbefore[[)]];

and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl.

8. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 of formula (IB)



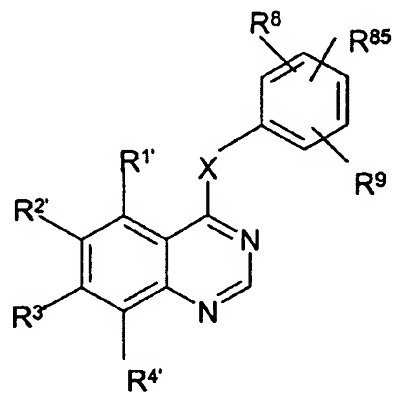
(IB)

where X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 7.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 6, wherein R^5 is selected from a group OR^{11} where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; or a group $NR^{12}R^{13}$ where one of R^{12} or R^{13} is hydrogen and the other is optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or R^{12} and R^{13} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached ~~from~~ form a heterocylic ring.

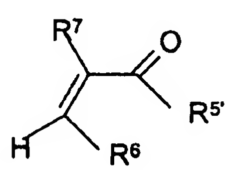
11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10, which is a phosphate ester of a compound of formula (I).

12. (previously presented) A method for preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 which method comprises reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

where X, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in claim 1, $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$, $R^{4'}$ are groups R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 as defined in claim 1 respectively; and R^{85} is a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

where R^6 are R^7 are as defined in claim 1 and $R^{5'}$ is a group as defined in claim 1.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method for treating colorectal or breast cancer in a warm blooded animal, in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a salt, ester, or amide thereof.

15. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a salt, ester, or amide thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 10 or a salt, ester or amide thereof; where ~~X is as defined in claim 1 and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are as defined in claim 6; and~~

R^5 is a group OR^{11}, $NR^{12}R^{13}$ or SR^{11} where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, and where one of R^{12} and R^{13} is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, cyano, amino, mono- or di-C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}alkylthio, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl; or one of R^{12} and R^{13} is hydrogen and the other is a heterocyclic group as well as dioxides thereof, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl or a phenyl group any of which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from halo, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy, and R^{12} and R^{13} may additionally form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, morpholine or piperidine,

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4} alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or phenyl.

17. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein X is NH or O.

18. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^1 is hydrogen, R^2 is halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, [[(]]wherein R^{14} and R^{15}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl[[)]], or a group $-X^1R^{16}$ where X^1 is oxygen and R^{16} is a group (1) as defined in claim 6,

R^3 is a group $-X^1R^{16}$ where X^1 is oxygen and R^{16} is a group selected from group (1), (3), (6) and (10) as defined in claim 6
and R^4 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently methoxy or 3,3,3-trifluoroethoxy.

20. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^3 is 3-morpholinopropoxy.

21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^8 and R^9 are both hydrogen.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^6 and R^7 are both hydrogen.